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~~77~~ (new). An apparatus according to claim ⁷⁰~~69~~ comprising pressurized gas introduction means (214) to introduce a pressurized gas directly into the conduit (27) is provided.

⁷⁹
~~78~~ (new). An apparatus according to claim ⁷⁰~~69~~ comprising drying means to dry particles of said material which are formed as a result of the mixture of said streams.

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~~79~~ (new). An apparatus according to claim ⁷⁹~~78~~, wherein the drying means introduces a stream of heated air around the orifice.

⁸¹
~~80~~ (new). An apparatus according to claim ⁷⁰~~69~~ including a downstream region for collection of particles of said material which are formed as a result of the mixture of said streams.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being made upon entry of International Application No. PCT/GB99/04355 into the U.S. §371 national phase of prosecution. Claims 1 to 40 were amended in the IPEX Report, but claims 2 to 40 are cancelled herewith. Claim 1 is amended, and Claims 41 to 80 are submitted for examination. Basis is found in the original claims, and in the previously submitted IPEX claims. The amendments are made to remove multiple claim dependencies and to conform the claims to US practice. No new matter is believed added.

A marked version of the amended claims accompany this paper.

An abstract on a separate sheet of paper accompanies this request.

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the number below. If any additional fees or charges are required by this paper the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit account 19-2570 accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



Dara L. Dinner
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,680

GLAXOSMITHKLINE
Corporate Intellectual Property UW2220
P.O. Box 1539
King of Prussia, PA 19406-0939
Phone (610) 270-5017

MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1 (Amended). A process for the production of particles of a material wherein:

a stream of a dispersion of the material in a solvent and a stream of a compressible fluid antisolvent substance are brought into contact with each other so that the streams combine to form a mixture under conditions such that the substance is in compressible fluid antisolvent state,

the mixture is then caused to flow along a conduit extending downstream from the region where the streams come into contact, toward an orifice which opens from the conduit directly into a downstream region so that the mixture flows through the orifice into the downstream region,

the pressure and temperature of the mixture in the conduit [being] are such that the compressible fluid antisolvent substance remains in a compressed state over at least part of the length of the conduit, and

the pressure and temperature in the downstream region [being] are such that the compressible fluid antisolvent substance is present therein in a gaseous state and the material separates from the mixture in a particulate state as a consequence of the conversion of the compressible fluid antisolvent into a gas.